



# countdown

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## STS-128 crew members arrive at Kennedy



◆ **Shuttle Update:** The STS-128 crew arrived at KSC on Wednesday for TCDT.

Crew activities will conclude Friday with the simulated launch countdown at the pad.

The external fuel tank, ET-133, for space shuttle Atlantis' STS-129 mission was transferred from the Pegasus barge to the VAB on Tuesday. The tank will be lifted into a high bay for checkout. Launch is targeted for November.

◆ **Ares I-X Update:** The next processing milestones for the Ares I-X include lift and mate Super Stack 2 to Super Stack 1 on MLP 1 in VAB High Bay 3; place ballasts, or weights, into Super Stack 2; and lift and mate Super Stack 3 to Super Stack 2. For more information about the Ares I-X flight test, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/ares>.

■ **Deadline Extended for SpaceOps 2010 Call for Papers** — The SpaceOps 2010 Conference, "Delivering on the Dream" hosted by the Marshall Space Flight Center, is scheduled for April 25-30 in Huntsville, Ala. Due to lower than expected submissions, the due date for abstracts has been extended to Aug. 21.

The technical committee's goal is to attract more papers on Launch Operations resulting in the topic having its own track at the 2010 conference. The committee wants to attract papers from the agency's Launch Operations Center, KSC.

This biannual conference is organized by an executive committee made up of representatives from space agencies around the world and supported by Amer-

ican Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Be sure to check with Export Control before submitting your abstract. For more details, please visit: <http://www.spaceops2010.org/>.

■ **NSSC's Agency Calendar Simplifies Event Tracking** — The NASA Shared Services Center's Web-based Agency Calendar that debuted last February is making it easier to track significant agency events. Some NASA centers have begun using the calendar source code to create centerwide calendars.

More than 30 sponsoring organizations can add an event in a matter of minutes, and all updates are instantly available to users across the agency. Points of Contact (POCs) at every sponsor location are responsible for posting events to the agency calendar. Most of the POCs already have added events; in fact, sponsors currently have more than 300 events entered on the calendar.

Current events include upcoming launches as well as planning, programming, budgeting and execution events. A wide range of events are represented and visitors can sort events by category or view the calendar by month, day or week.

Please visit the agency calendar online and view what is happening around NASA at: <http://aci.nssc.nasa.gov/>.

■ **Call For Prize Concept Proposals** — The Innovative Partnerships Program, known as IPP, is seeking ideas for new NASA prize concepts through an internal call for proposals. The IPP Office manages the Centennial Challenges, which is NASA's program to award cash prizes for significant advances in technologies of

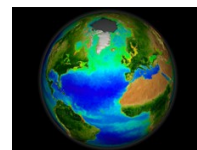
## Stacking of Ares I-X segments under way

interest to NASA and the nation. The program encourages innovation throughout the private sector, seeking creative solutions from diverse and unconventional sources.

The call for prize concept proposals is open to NASA and contractor employees at all levels. Some selected proposals may be formulated into prize competitions to be announced in this or future years, pending availability of prize purse funding.

Proposals should be submitted to the designed IPP office representative at each center. The call for proposals with full instructions is posted at:

<http://ipp.nasa.gov/cc>. Proposals will be accepted immediately and must be received no later than Sept. 4 for consideration in this fiscal year. Please send proposals to Carol Dunn/KT-A2 at 867-6381 or Dave Makufka at 867-6227.



■ **NASA Science** — Since he was 21, Mike Behrenfeld has been observing phytoplankton under a

microscope. He also employs a big-picture tool: the view from space. Read more about it at:

[http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/plankton\\_space.html](http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/plankton_space.html).

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